# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3138
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
INCENTIVES TO SPORTSPERSONS
Appadurai Shri M.

**Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:**

(a) the incentives provided by the Government to the sportspersons involved in Football, Hockey, Badminton, Lawn Tennis, Cricket and other sports discipline;

(b) the reasons for giving special attention to cricket as compared to other sports discipline;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage sportspersons for taking up other sports discipline other than cricket in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHYATI RAJ, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) The primary responsibility for the development of various sports disciplines, including Football, Hockey, Badminton, Lawn Tennis and Cricket, vests in the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned.The Government supplements their efforts through financial assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training and arrangements for coaches, both Indian and foreign, procurement of equipment and consumables etc., as per agreed Long Term Development Plans. In this connection, detailed discussions are also being held with the various NSFs and other stakeholders like the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Sports Authority of India (SAI) etc., to further streamline the process of identification and nurturing of talent, development of well-planned strategies for the identification of elite sportspersons capable of winning medals and related training requirements such as exposure and participation in events at the international level, and other measures for the planned development of different sports disciplines. In addition, Government is also providing assistance to meritorious sportspersons for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad, under the `Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training` and through the `National Sports Development Fund`.

(b)The Government does not provide any financial assistance to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (Men).

(c) to (e) With a view to broad basing sports, action is being taken by the Sports Authority of India for scouting and nurturing talent and training identified sportspersons at the sub-junior, junior and senior levels by providing vital inputs such as coaching, infrastructure and equipment support, sports kits, competition exposure etc. under the following schemes:

(i) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme;

(ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme;

(iii) SAI Training Centres (STC) Scheme;

(iv) Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme; and

(v) Centre for Excellence Scheme.

Under these Schemes, special emphasis is being given to encouraging sportspersons to take up various sports disciplines other than Cricket.

The Ministry is also considering launching a scheme under the title of `Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan` with a view to providing basic sports infrastructure and arrangements in Panchayat areas to enable access for vast sections of the rural youth to organized games and sports facilities, both as an essential ingredient of youth development and for significantly widening the catchment area for the identification and nurturing of sports talent.

Moreover, Government is encouraging sports and sportspersons at various levels including schools, colleges and rural areas under its

`Scheme of Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities` which has the following components:

(a) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons

(b) Rural Sports Programme

(c) Promotion of Sports and Games in School

(d) Sports Scholarships

(e) National Sports Development Fund

The Government also provides awards to outstanding sportspersons, including cricketers.